



Army chief says Congress must boost aid to Israel as the US death toll rises to 9 in Hamas attacks

By Matthew Lee and Tara Copp
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress must pass more funding quickly for the U.S. to be able to give both Israel and Ukraine the weapons and munitions they both now need, a top Pentagon official said Monday, as the State Department raised the number of confirmed American deaths in the Hamas attack in Israel to nine.

"The intent is to lean forward in support of Israel," Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said. "But in particular with munitions and the ability to support Israel and Ukraine simultaneously, additional funding is needed to increase our capacity to expand production and then also pay for the munitions themselves." It is clear the administration is now facing potentially competing requests from Israel and Ukraine for additional weaponry. And while there is strong bipartisan support in Congress for aid to Israel, the next steps are uncertain, with the House lacking a leader after the ouster of the Republican speaker and the Senate out of town until next week.



Israeli soldiers are seen in a staging ground near the Israeli Gaza border, southern Israel, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023.

(AP Photo/Ohad Zwigenberg)

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Continued from Front

It also was unclear whether the debate over further assistance to Ukraine, which is opposed by a group of hard-right Republicans, would complicate efforts to pass assistance for Israel.

Wormuth, speaking at the annual Association of the United States Army conference in Washington, said the administration was still "in the early stage of the process of evaluating our ability to support what the IDF needs," referring to the Israeli Defense Forces. She did not provide details.

Most of the weaponry sent already to help Ukraine has come from Army stocks and defense contractors at a rate that has challenged the global supply chain, and while the Army has recently ramped up production of some critical lines, such as 155 mm ammunition for howitzers, they are not yet at full speed.

With a new ground offensive in Gaza imminent following the Saturday surprise attack by Hamas, Army officials said Monday they were concerned about the ability to meet additional demand for ground munitions and that Congress needed to act quickly to provide help in time.



The USS Gerald R. Ford, one of the world's largest aircraft carriers, arrives in Halifax on Oct. 28, 2022. (Andrew Vaughan/The Canadian Press via AP, File)

The State Department said at least nine American citizens have been killed in the Hamas attack on Israel. It said an undetermined number of American citizens remain unaccounted for. It was not yet clear if the missing are dead, in hiding, or had been taken hostage.

The attack by Hamas and Israel's response have left more than 1,100 dead and thousands wounded on both sides.

In the aftermath of the Hamas attack, the White House has asked Senate

leaders to fast track confirmation of President Joe Biden's nominee to be the next ambassador to Israel, former Obama-era Treasury Secretary and White House chief of staff Jack Lew, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity. The White House has received assurances that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will push forward hearings for Lew, the official added.

The U.S. is currently without an ambassador after the de-

parture of Ambassador Tom Nides in July. Biden nominated Lew in September.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Sunday he has ordered the Ford carrier strike group to sail to the Eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist Israel. The USS Gerald R. Ford, the Navy's newest and most advanced aircraft carrier, and its approximately 5,000 sailors and deck of warplanes will be accompanied by cruisers and destroyers in a show of force that is meant to be ready to respond to anything, from possibly inter-

dicting additional weapons from reaching Hamas and conducting surveillance.

The large deployment reflects a U.S. desire to deter any regional expansion of the conflict. But the Israeli government formally declared war Sunday and gave the green light for "significant military steps" to retaliate against Hamas.

Along with the Ford, the U.S. is sending the cruiser USS Normandy and destroyers USS Thomas Hudner, USS Ramage, USS Carney, and USS Roosevelt, and the U.S. is augmenting Air Force F-35, F-15, F-16, and A-10 fighter aircraft squadrons in the region. Austin said the U.S. also will be providing Israel with "additional equipment and resources, including munitions," with the first shipments to begin arriving in the coming days.

The Norfolk, Virginia-based carrier strike group already was in the Mediterranean. Last week it was conducting naval exercises with Italy in the Ionian Sea. The carrier is in its first full deployment. Senior officials from the Pentagon and State Department briefed senators Sunday night, and Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said they were assured that the United States was giving Israel "everything they need." □

Native Americans celebrate their histories and cultures on Indigenous Peoples Day



People attend an Indigenous Peoples Day Sunrise Ceremony at Bde Maka Ska in Minneapolis, Minn. on Monday, Oct. 9, 2023. (Kerem Yücel/Minnesota Public Radio via AP)

Associated Press (AP) - Native people celebrated their history on Monday with events across the U.S. marking Indigenous

Peoples Day, from a sunrise gathering in Minneapolis to a rally in Maine.

The ceremonies, dances and speeches came two

years after President Joe Biden officially commemorated Indigenous Peoples Day. At the time, he said the day is meant to "honor America's first inhabitants and the Tribal Nations that continue to thrive today." In Minnesota, about 150 people, including the governor and lieutenant governor, attended a sunrise prayer and ceremony at Bde Maka Ska, a lake surrounded by parkland on the south side of Minneapolis.

"Today, we recognize our ancestors and predecessors who really laid the

foundation for us to stand," said Thorne LaPointe, an indigenous organizer and Native American.

"And we will always recognize our elders who are here and those who have gone on before us, who really kicked open the doors in their time, nationally and internationally."

According to the Pew Research Center, 17 states and Washington, D.C., have holidays honoring Native Americans. Many of them celebrate it on the second Monday of October, pivoting from a day long rooted in the celebra-

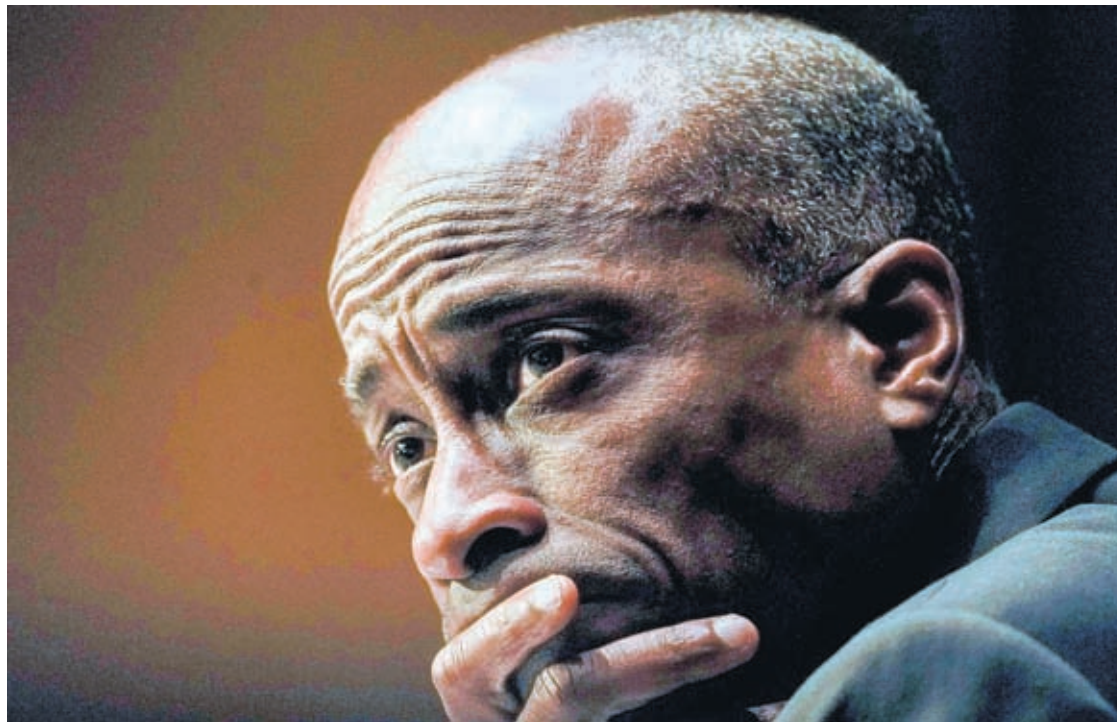
tion of explorer Christopher Columbus to one focused on the people whose lives and culture were forever changed by colonialism. Dozens of cities and school systems also observe Indigenous Peoples Day.

In Augusta, Maine, several hundred people celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day by rallying outside the Statehouse in support a Nov. 7 statewide vote on an amendment that would require the restoration of tribal treaties that were omitted from printed versions of the state constitution. □

2 Federal Reserve officials say spike in bond yields may allow central bank to leave rates alone

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Federal Reserve officials suggested Monday that the central bank may leave interest rates unchanged at its next meeting in three weeks because a surge in long-term interest rates has made borrowing more expensive and could help cool inflation without further action by the Fed. Since late July, the yield, or rate, on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note has jumped from around 4% to about 4.8%, a 16-year high. The run-up in the yield has inflated other borrowing costs and raised the national average 30-year mortgage rate to 7.5%, according to Freddie Mac, a 23-year high. Business borrowing costs have also risen as corporate bond yields have accelerated. Philip Jefferson, vice chair of the Fed's board and a close ally of Chair Jerome Powell, said in a speech Monday to the National Association for Business Economics that he would "remain cognizant" of the higher bond rates and "keep that in mind as I assess the future path of policy." U.S. stock prices reversed their losses after Jefferson's



Philip Jefferson, then a nominee to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, testifies during a confirmation hearing on Feb. 3, 2022, in Washington.

(Ken Cedeno/Pool via AP, File)

comments. The S&P 500 was up 0.5% in late trading. Jefferson's comments followed a speech to the NABE earlier in the day by Lorie Logan, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and a voting member of the Fed's rate-setting committee. She also indicated that higher long-term bond rates could help serve the central bank's efforts to slow inflation to its 2% target. Since March of last year, the Fed has raised its benchmark short-term rate

11 times, from near zero to roughly 5.4%. The rate hikes have been intended to defeat the worst bout of inflation in more than 40 years. But they have also led to much higher borrowing rates and sparked worries that they could trigger a recession. "If long-term interest rates remain elevated" because investors are increasingly concerned about the risks of holding long-term bonds, "there may be less need to raise the fed funds rate," Logan said, referring

to the Fed's benchmark rate. Bond rates rise when investors find them riskier to buy or hold. And last Thursday, Mary Daly, president of the San Francisco Fed, said that if longer-term interest rates remain high, "the need for us to take further action is diminished." The Fed officials' remarks coincide with increasing expectations in financial markets that the Fed will skip rate hikes at its meeting Nov. 1, as well as at the following meeting Dec. 13,

and simply leave its benchmark rate at its current high level through the end of this year. Futures markets have priced in only a 12% chance of a rate hike in November and 26% in December, both significantly lower than on Friday, when a surprisingly robust jobs report was released.

Fed officials have not pushed back against those expectations in their remarks, a sign they may not disagree with them at the moment.

"There's this growing sense of comfort among Fed officials with the July rate hike having been the last one in this tightening cycle and now focusing on how long to keep monetary policy at the current restrictive level," said Gregory Daco, chief economist at EY, the accounting and consulting firm.

One issue that economists and Fed officials are trying to determine is what factors are pushing longer-term rates higher. The Fed's rate hikes themselves don't automatically translate into higher longer-run borrowing costs, such as the 10-year Treasury yield. Market forces, expectations for future inflation and for future economic growth also affect yields. □

California governor vetoes bill to make free condoms available for high school students, citing cost

By Adam beam
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Gavin Newsom rejected a bill on Sunday that would have made free condoms available to all public high school students, arguing it was too expensive for a state with a budget deficit of more than \$30 billion. Legislative staff estimated it would have cost in the low millions of dollars each year. California had about 1.9 million high school students enrolled in more than 4,000 schools last year, according to the California Department of Education. "This bill would create an unfunded mandate to public schools that

should be considered in the annual budget process," Newsom wrote in a message explaining why he vetoed the bill, known as Senate bill 541.

The bill is one of hundreds passed by California's Democratic-dominated state Legislature before lawmakers adjourned last month. Newsom has been signing and vetoing legislation since then, including rejecting bills on Saturday to ban caste-based discrimination, limit the price of insulin and decriminalize possession and use of some hallucinogens. The bill would have required all public schools that have grades nine through 12 to make condoms available for free to all students. It would

have required public schools with grades seven through 12 to allow condoms to be made available as part of educational or public health programs.

And it would have made it illegal for retailers to refuse to sell condoms to youth.

State Sen. Caroline Menjivar, a Democrat from Los Angeles and the author of the bill, had argued the bill would have helped "youth who decide to become sexually active to protect themselves and their partners from (sexually transmitted infections), while also removing barriers that potentially shame them and lead to unsafe sex."



A sample of condoms distributed freely by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation is displayed at a news conference on Feb. 14, 2023, in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File)

Is Mar-a-Lago worth \$1 billion? Trump's winter home valuations are at the core of his fraud trial

By Terry Spencer
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)

— How much is Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago worth? That's been a point of contention after a New York judge ruled that the former president exaggerated the Florida property's value when he said it's worth at least \$420 million and perhaps \$1.5 billion.

Siding with New York's attorney general in a lawsuit accusing Trump of grossly overvaluing his assets, Judge Arthur Engoron found that Trump consistently exaggerated Mar-a-Lago's worth.

He noted that one Trump estimate of the club's value was 2,300% times the Palm Beach County tax appraiser's valuations, which ranged from \$18 million to \$37 million.

But Palm Beach real es-



An aerial view of former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate is seen Aug. 10, 2022, in Palm Beach, Fla.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber, File)

tate agents who specialize in high-end properties scoffed at the idea that the

estate could be worth that little, in the unlikely event Trump ever sold.

"Ludicrous," agent Liza Pulitzer said about the judge citing the county's tax ap-

praisal as a benchmark. Homes a tenth the size of Mar-a-Lago on tiny inland lots sell for that in the Town of Palm Beach, a wealthy island enclave.

"The entire real estate community felt it was a joke when they saw that figure," said Pulitzer, who works for the firm Brown Harris Stevens.

"That thing would get snapped up for hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars," said Rob Thomson, owner of Waterfront Properties and a Mar-a-Lago member.

"There is zero chance that it's going to sell for \$40 million or \$50 million."

In the ongoing trial over the lawsuit, though, what a private buyer might pay for a place like Mar-a-Lago isn't the only factor in determining whether Trump is liable for fraud. □

As Republicans split over who will be House speaker, McCarthy positions himself as a de facto leader



Former Speaker of the House Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., speaks during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

By Lisa Mascaro and Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Republicans have no clear idea who to elect U.S. House speaker, leaving an unprecedented power vacuum in Congress and severely limiting America's ability to quickly respond to the crisis in Israel — or any number of other problems at home or abroad.

On Monday, the ousted former speaker, Kevin McCarthy, quickly jumped into the void, bitterly criticizing President Joe Biden's administration over the strength of its defense of Israel and positioning himself as a de facto Republican leader even though his colleagues toppled him from power.

But it's not at all clear if McCarthy could seriously

make a comeback — or if any other Republicans seeking the gavel, Steve Scalise or Jim Jordan — can be elected speaker as their majority dissembles into infighting. House Republicans are scheduled to meet behind closed doors Monday evening to try to regain control of their majority ahead of possible speaker votes this week.

"Whether I'm speaker or not... I can lead in any position I'm in," McCarthy, R-Calif., said at the Capitol.

The upheaval in the House puts the U.S. Congress at a crossroads during a time of crisis, the first time in history it has booted a speaker from power, operating without a constitutional officer, second in line to the presidency. House business, and with it most congressional action, has come to a standstill.

It's not at all clear what, if anything, the Congress can do with only an interim leader. At risk is immediate aid to Israel along with pas-

sage of a resolution that would show U.S. support for Israel and condemnation of Hamas for the attack as the region is now engulfed in war.

And there are broader demands on Congress, including Ukraine's requests for aid as it fights Russia and the need to fund the U.S. government again by Nov. 17 or risk a federal shutdown. The Senate meanwhile is also out of session, on recess until next week.

"Does anybody have the votes? No," said Rep. Mike Lawler of New York, a centrist Republican pushing for McCarthy to be reinstated as speaker.

Republicans are scheduled to meet privately in the evening as they assess the path forward after McCarthy's historic ouster by a handful of hardline Republicans, led by Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.,

Gaetz has said on social media there are "two great men" running for speaker, indicating he could support

either Scalise or Jordan.

But neither Scalise, the majority leader who is the second-ranking Republican in the House, nor Jordan, who is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and backed by Donald Trump, appear to have the votes needed to secure the majority vote.

Both Republicans who have eyed the speaker's gavel for some time come with political strengths, but also baggage that leaves colleagues split and skeptical.

Scalise is battling blood cancer, and is seen by a hero among colleagues for having survived severe injuries from a mass shooting during a congressional baseball game practice in 2017. But the Louisiana Republican had apologized in 2014 after he was found to have addressed a white supremacist group in 2002 founded by a former Ku Klux Klan leader. Scalise said he didn't know of the group's racial views. □

An independent inquiry opens into alleged unlawful killings by UK special forces in Afghanistan

By Sylvia Hui
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — An independent inquiry opened Monday to examine claims that British special forces murdered dozens of Afghan men during counter-insurgency operations in Afghanistan a decade ago, as well as allegations that authorities subsequently covered up the alleged illegal activity or failed to investigate it properly. The inquiry, which opened at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, focuses on alleged unlawful killings that took place during night raids carried out by Britain's elite military units in the war-torn nation between 2010 and 2013. Families of those killed say they were innocent and unarmed civilians, and called on the inquiry to unearth the truth. In one case, family members allege that nine men were shot in their beds during a raid. The British military has said that soldiers were acting in self-defense. The investigation is expected to hear submissions on behalf of the families of 33 people, including eight children, who were allegedly killed by special forces.



Tessa Gregory from Leigh Day solicitors who represent Afghan families affected by alleged illegal activity by British special forces in the war-torn nation between 2010 and 2013, makes a statement outside the Royal Courts of Justice, in London, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023.
(Jonathan Brady/PA Wire/PA via AP)

"Our clients hope that the opening of this inquiry marks the end of 'the wall of silence' and obstruction that has confronted them over the last decade," said lawyer Tessa Gregory, representing the families. Her law firm, Leigh Day, argues that between 2010 and 2013, more than 80 Afghans were killed under "suspicious" circumstances

at the hands of British special forces. That formed part of a "widespread and systematic pattern of unlawful extrajudicial killings," it said. Lawyer Oliver Glasgow, making his opening submissions to the hearings Monday, said the inquiry will ensure that "those with something to hide" will be held accountable, regardless of

their seniority in the military. Glasgow cited email exchanges between senior officers that suggested multiple concerns were raised within the military at the time about the number of casualties. One such email noted "there appears to be a casual disregard for life," while others discussed the disproportionate number

of enemy dead compared to the number of weapons recovered. The inquiry was ordered last year after some families launched legal challenges against the U.K. government. It will scrutinize two previous investigations by the Royal Military Police into allegations of wrongdoing by U.K. armed forces in Afghanistan, which closed with no prosecutions. When the BBC aired details about the alleged unlawful killings in an investigative program last year, the Ministry of Defense cited the lack of evidence in the two earlier inquiries and claimed it was "irresponsible and incorrect" to report the allegations. British forces were deployed to Afghanistan since 2001 as part of a NATO-led international coalition after the Sept. 11 attacks. Thousands of British troops were sent to Helmand from 2006 to help with providing security for reconstruction projects, but they were soon drawn into combat operations. The last U.K. forces and their NATO allies withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021 after a nearly two-decade campaign. □

Rio de Janeiro's security forces launch raids in 3 favelas to target criminals

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Rio de Janeiro's state government deployed hundreds of police officers early Monday to three of the city's sprawling, low-income neighborhoods, saying it aimed to clamp down on organized crime groups. Security forces targeted not only the Mare complex of favelas by Rio's international airport, but also the adjacent Vila Cruzeiro neighborhood and the City of God neighborhood on the city's opposite side. All three are controlled by the Red Command drug trafficking group.

Recent intelligence had indicated that crime bosses had migrated from Mare to the other two communities, Rio's government said on X, formerly Twitter. It also said 1,000 officers participated in the three-pronged raid. Residents of the communities started hearing shootouts soon after dawn, according to Fogo Cruzado, a nonprofit organization that provides real-time reporting of gun violence. Local media G1 reported that two police helicopters took fire and were forced to the ground. The state government shared video of material it

apprehended, including nearly 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of cocaine paste, and said it had seized more than half a ton of marijuana and synthetic drugs. Officers had found two drug labs and arrested nine people as of midday. On Friday, Rio Gov. Claudio Castro spoke about plans underway to strike back at organized crime groups that control vast swaths of territory. "These aren't good people of the community, they aren't residents. They are bloody, violent, strongly-armed criminals and need to be combated with



Police ride past residents in a bulldozer they use to clear street barricades during a security operation against organized crime in the Mare Complex favela of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023.

(AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

toughness and the strong hand of the state," he said. Last week, three doctors were executed at a beachside eatery, appar-

ently in a case of mistaken identity, with one of the targets confused by attackers for the son of a local militia group. □

Guatemala's attorney general asks authorities to act against pro-democracy protests

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Guatemala's attorney general on Monday called for the government to act against largely peaceful protesters, who have taken to the streets for weeks demanding her resignation for what they say are clear attempts to undermine their nation's democracy. Protests broke out in Guatemala two weeks ago following one of the most tumultuous elections in the country's recent history. The protests are fueled by accusations that Attorney General Consuelo Porras has tried to prevent President-elect Bernardo Arévalo from taking office in January. Since emerging as a political contender earlier this

year, Arévalo — a progressive outsider challenging the elite who have long controlled the Central American nation — and his Seed Movement party have faced waves of legal attacks. Those only ramped up when he won the country's elections in August. The attacks have included raids on electoral facilities and the suspension of Arévalo's political party, effectively handicapping his ability to govern. Such moves against the incoming leader prompted Indigenous groups and rural-dwellers — long disenfranchised in Guatemalan society — to call for an indefinite strike, which began with 14 blockades. Now two weeks into protests, the blockades

have since expanded to block more than 80 roads throughout the country. In a video released Monday morning, Porras described the demonstrations against her as "illegal", and asked for authorities to forcibly clear the blocked roads and allow for the free circulation of people once again. "I want to express my complete disagreement and distaste" of the protests, she said, adding that they "clearly violate the rights of all Guatemalans." Demonstrators have largely been peaceful, but her message comes after a handful of incidents over the weekend. People annoyed by the road blockades drove their cars at protesters and were



Market vendors march toward downtown during a national strike in Guatemala City, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023.
(AP Photo/Moises Castillo)

later arrested for causing material damage and making attempts against the lives of the people protesting. Porras and other prosecutors have been sanctioned

by the U.S. government and had their entry visas withdrawn, accusing them of obstructing the anti-corruption fight and undermining democracy in the country. □

Afghans reel from the earthquake that killed thousands



Afghan people carry the body of a relative killed in an earthquake to a burial site after an earthquake in Zenda Jan district in Herat province, western of Afghanistan, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023.

(AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

By Omid Haqjo
Associated Press

ZINDA JAN, Afghanistan (AP) — People dug through the rubble of the quake in western Afghanistan for their few possessions but the material losses seemed unimportant. Saturday's 6.3 magnitude quake killed and injured thousands when it leveled an untold number of homes in Herat province. Picking through the rubble on Monday, Asadullah Khan paused to think about a future marred by grief. Khan lost three daughters,

his mother and his sister-in-law. Five members of his uncle's family have died. His neighbors are grief-stricken, too. "We have lost 23 people in this village," Khan said. Mounds of rubble flank the road winding through Zinda Jan district. Some door frames remain standing. There were few people in sight on Monday. The Taliban-appointed deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Abdul Ghani Baradar, and his team visited the quake-affected region Monday

to deliver "immediate relief assistance" and ensure "equitable and accurate distribution of aid," authorities said. Top U.N. officials also went to Zinda Jan to assess the extent of the damage. And in neighboring Pakistan, the government held a special session to review aid for Afghanistan, including relief teams, food, medicine, tents and blankets. The Taliban's supreme leader has made no public comments about the quake. Afghanistan has few reliable statistics but a spokesman for Afghanistan's national disaster authority, Janan Sayiq, told reporters in Kabul that around 4,000 people were killed or injured by the disaster. He did not provide a breakdown, but the United Nations estimates that 1,023 people were killed and 1,663 people injured in 11 villages in Zinda Jan alone. Nearly 2,000 houses in 20 villages were destroyed, the Taliban has said. The area hit by the quake has just one government-run hospital. Saturday's epicenter was about 40 kilometers (25

miles) northwest of the city of Herat, the provincial capital, and it was followed by three very strong aftershocks and some smaller shocks, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Residents of the city rushed out of their homes again on Monday after another aftershock that the USGS said the aftershock measured at magnitude 4.9. There was a second, slightly stronger aftershock later in the day. More than 35 teams from the military and non-profit groups are involved in rescue efforts, said Sayiq, from the disaster authority. The fast-approaching winter, combined with the new disaster, is likely to exacerbate Afghanistan's existing challenges and make it even harder for people to meet their basic needs, like adequate shelter, food, and medicine, aid groups warn. Vital infrastructure including bridges was destroyed and emergency response teams have been deployed to the area to provide immediate humanitarian assistance, the International Rescue Committee said.

The global response to the quake has been slow, with much of the world wary of dealing directly with the Taliban-led government and focused on the deadly escalation between Israel and the Palestinians in the aftermath of the surprise attack by Gaza militants on Saturday. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian called his Afghan Taliban counterpart, Amir Khan Muttaqi, to express his condolences, according to a post on X by Hafiz Zia Ahmad, the deputy spokesman for the foreign ministry in Kabul. The Iranian diplomat "promised humanitarian aid to victims," said Ahmad. Meanwhile, the justice ministry has urged national and international charity foundations, businessmen and Afghans to mobilize and gather humanitarian aid for needy people in the province. "Due to the extent of damages and casualties caused by this incident, a large number of our compatriots in Herat province need urgent humanitarian aid," the ministry said in a statement. □

Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.



Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your

exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confused among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is

used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □



Paseo Herencia; An exciting destination for leisure and entertainment



NOORD — Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.

Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of Sexy Shrimps Bar, and the familiar warmth of Starbucks, indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic adventure that spans the world's finest cuisines, all within the charming ambiance of our outdoor center.

VIP Cinema

Indulge in an unparalleled cinematic experience at Caribbean Cinemas VIP, nestled on Paseo Herencia's second floor. Relax in supremely comfortable reclining seats while enjoying movies on high-quality screens with state-of-the-art projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound. Don't forget to relish the delectable buttery popcorn.



Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Monday to Friday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly watershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with delightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Parking is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie at Paseo Herencia. Simply present your purchase receipt to the parking cashier. For more details on specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website at www.paseoherencia.com.



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Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. These Distinguished Visitors were respectively honored with certificates acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors Mr. Charles & Mrs. Carol Lucia from Massa-

chusetts, United States and Distinguished Visitors Mr. Biren & Mrs. Melissa Chokshi from Connecticut, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort bestowed the distinguished Visitor certificates to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, and as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Lucia were:
Aruba's friendly people
"Great spot for R&R!"
Aruba's beauty
Aruba's gorgeous oceans
"Things to do!"

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Chokshi were:
Aruba's turquoise beaches



Aruba's warm sunny weather
Aruba's great people
Aruba's safety and cleanliness
"Aruba is an easy island to get to!"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



Aruba to me

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Our succulent Island



Succulent are plants that are mainly thickened, fleshy, and engorged, usually to retain water in arid climates or soil conditions. The word succulent comes from the Latin word sucus, meaning 'juice', or 'sap'. Like for example our island cactuses or any other plant that stores water on its stems or leaves. In developing special talents, these plants have developed a special type of survival skills, filled with unique and wonderful shapes, colors, and textures such we can find in the Aruban landscape.

A typical Aruban landscape made out of granite boulders tuna and candelabra cacti.

Our island vegetation shapes local culture and national identity, and so in order to protect it we hope to allow future generations to enjoy their unique environment. The thorny brushes, trees cacti and agave varieties are abundant, though not in large numbers of species. The cactus grows in the wild. Their seeds are dispersed by the wind and fauna, specially birds and bats that feast on their delicious fruits.

The best known or most famous succulent of the island is not really a local plant. This plant was introduced to the island in order to foment cultivation and create new sources of income for the islanders, and yes you guessed it, it is the Aloe. This super plant has been actually imported from the island of Barbados where it was doing

good and started to bring in some extra income. This plant was also imported from another island called Socotra, which is located between the Guardafui Channel and the Arabian Sea in the Indian Ocean. Well, the Aloe did really bring wealth for those who had invested in this wonder plant.

The Aruba Aloe did become an important ingredient of many pharmaceutical skin products used as protection against the sun and chemotherapeutic burns. It can also be found in Laxatives, consumed to treat constipation and detoxification.

The cacti have a very important ecological role: their fruits and flowers, which some bloom only at night, provide critical food resources for a variety of the islands' bats, birds and reptiles.

There are three types of candelabra or organ pipe cacti species that dominate the landscape of the island. *Stenocereus griseus*, *Cereus repandus* and *Pilosocereus lanuginosus*.

Stenocereus griseus grows straight up and branches out close to the ground; its thorns make up neat rows of rosettes.

Stenocereus griseus is a treelike cactus (3-6-9 (-10) meters high, sometimes branching at the base, sometimes with a definite trunk. This species shows latitudinal variation in growth form, from a multi-stemmed shrub sending up from the base 5 to 20 branches 3 to 6 meters high in dry northern habitats to a ten meter columnar arborescent cactus in Caribbean deciduous forest. The flowers, which appear in spring, are followed by the large delicious fruit much prized by the native.

Cereus repandus, known locally as Breba, is the largest of the three cacti species and looks more like a tree as it branches out further from the ground; its thorns form dense rows that stick on the *Cereus repandus*. The *Cereus repandus* is an unsearched, under-utilized cactus, grown mostly as an ornamental plant. with branches that grows in all directions.

Pilosocereus lanuginosus is a beautiful golden spined columnar cactus that can eventually grow up to 30' feet tall. *Pilosocereus lanuginosus* branches from the sides of the main stems producing a candelabra effect. Stems average 4" to 6"+ in diameter and have a glaucous or blueish green skin. Like the other species of *Pilosocereus*, this species, from warm temperate climate is very easy Cacti to grow however cannot survive any periods of frost. □





Article by: Etnia Nativa
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Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island. □

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Scarlett's last name

1 Paul Bunyan's ox

5 Lawyer's jobs

10 Districts

12 Select group

13 It has a powerful beam

15 Blasting stuff

16 Feel poorly

17 Yoga need

18 Chowling down

20 Cause of ruin

21 New wave instrument, for short

22 Manual reader

23 Tenth president

25 Strong wind

28 Urge forward

31 Vaccine type

32 Meter readers

34 Cotillion girl

35 Letter after upsilon

36 Here, in France

37 Avenue illuminator

DOWN

1 Moistened, as a turkey

2 Sports spots

3 "Reds" star

4 Corn unit

5 Jail division

6 Boxing great

7 Letters after rhos

A	L	E	C	C	U	B	A	N
L	I	M	O	O	P	E	R	A
A	T	O	M	O	P	I	A	T
M	U	T	A	B	L	E	P	I
O	P	E	N	A	I	R	A	V
C	A	C	H	E	C	H	O	S
A	C	H	E	S	H	E		
N	C	O	S	P	A	R	E	S
T	E	C	T	I	P	O	V	E
O	P	T	I	O	N	K	E	P
S	T	A	R	V	E	E	R	I
S	W	E	E	T	E	T	A	S

Yesterday's answer

8 Fuel gas

9 Hunting dog

11 Meager runner

14 Best part

19 Military info

20 Pats on the back, perhaps

24 Contacts in a way

25 Baptized boy

26 Singer Franklin

27 Maze runner

29 Asylum seeker

30 Lewd fellow

33 Blasting stuff

35 Ring out

38 Historic time

39 Charged particle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12		
13				14				
15				16			17	
18			19			20		
	21					22		
			23			24		
25	26	27		28		29	30	
31				32				33
34				35			36	
37			38			39		
40					41			
42						43		

10-10

AXYDIBAA XR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-10 CRYPTOQUOTE

EAD JMCNE PIROMEMIR IJ

HRODCNEKROMRF K JLCDMFR

PLHRECQ MN EL NVDXX ME.

— CHOQKCO UMYXMRF

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I REMEMBER IT AS OCTOBER DAYS ARE ALWAYS REMEMBERED. CLOUDLESS, MAPLE-FLAVORED, THE AIR GOLD AND SO CLEAN IT QUIVERS. — LEIF ENGER

Gates Foundation funding \$40 million effort to help develop mRNA vaccines in Africa in coming years



Bill Gates speaks to The Associated Press during a visit of the Institut Pasteur in Dakar, Senegal, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023.

(AP Photo)

By Krista Larson
Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — A \$40 million investment will help several African manufacturers produce new messenger RNA vaccines on the continent where people were last in line to receive jabs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced Monday.

While it could still take at least three more years before any of the vaccines are approved and on the market, the foundation said that its mRNA investment marks an important step forward in improving vaccine equity.

"Whether it's for local diseases in Africa like Rift Valley (fever) or for global diseases like TB, mRNA looks like a very promising approach," Bill Gates told The Associated Press on Sunday after visiting one of the facilities involved, the Institut Pasteur in Dakar, Senegal. "And so it allows us to bring in lots of African capabilities to work on these vaccines, and then this can be scaled up."

The announcement comes as the foundation opens its

annual three-day Grand Challenges event, which brings together scientists and public health researchers from around the world.

Institut Pasteur, along with the South Africa-based company Biovac, will be using an mRNA research and manufacturing platform that was developed by Quantoom Biosciences in Belgium. The two Africa-based vaccine manufacturers are receiving \$5 million each in funding from the foundation, while another \$10 million is earmarked for other companies that have not yet been named. The remaining \$20 million is going to Quantoom "to further advance the technology and lower costs."

The mRNA vaccine technology came to the forefront with the production of COVID-19 vaccines made by Pfizer and Moderna. The messenger RNA approach starts with a snippet of genetic code-carrying instructions for making proteins. And by picking the right virus protein to target, the body turns into a mini vaccine factory.

Those COVID-19 mRNA vaccines were fast-tracked through the regulatory process and granted emergency use authorization. The new vaccines under development in Africa face a far longer development timeline — anywhere from three to seven years. Dr. Amadou Sall, chief executive officer at Institut Pasteur, said the deal will help build vaccine self-reliance in Africa. The institute already has been producing yellow fever jabs since the 1930s and now hopes mRNA technology can be harnessed to produce vaccines for diseases endemic on the continent like Lassa fever, Rift Valley fever and Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever.

"What we want is next time there is a pandemic — we hope it won't happen soon — Africa would be able to make its own vaccine, to contribute to the development, and make sure that we protect the population," Sall said. "What happened with COVID should never happen again in the sense that Africans should get vaccinated as a matter of equity."

Jose Castillo, chief executive officer of Quantoom Biosciences, said the mRNA technologies allow low- and middle-income countries "to become autonomous in terms of research and development." The platform only needs 350 square meters (3,800 square feet) of space to have a manufacturing facility capable of making tens of millions of doses. With \$8.3 billion to give away in 2023, the Gates Foundation is the largest private philanthropic donor. And with an endowment of more than \$70 billion, its spending power is likely to continue for many decades. It has spent billions of dollars to vaccinate against polio, treat and prevent malaria and HIV and more recently advance vaccines for diseases like cholera. □

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IMF and World Bank pledge Africa focus at first meetings on the continent in 50 years



A participant walks past flags outside a convention center hosting the IMF and World Bank annual meetings, in Marrakech, Morocco, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023.

By Sam Metz
Associated Press
MARRAKECH, Morocco
(AP) — In the shadow of a deadly earthquake in Morocco that caused nearly \$12 billion in damage, the world's most powerful economic policymakers said they would focus on Africa as they work to grow and stabilizing the global economy during times of war, inequality and climate change. The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are holding their annual meetings in Africa for the first time in 50 years as they face a growing chorus of criticism that poorer nations are underrepresented at the two institutions. Both have recently said they plan to give Africa additional seats on their executive boards. The conference theme was clear

(AP Photo/Mosa'ab Elshamy)
Monday during the gathering in Marrakech, although definitive details had yet to be discussed. "We're here, Africa," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on a panel with African entrepreneurs. Often lenders of last resort, the IMF and the World Bank use billions in loans and assistance to buoy struggling economies and encourage countries operating in deficit to implement reforms they say promote stability and growth. But critics — including officials from throughout Africa — have said policies that deny economies access to credit and loans in the absence of balanced budgets often require governments to make impossible choices, including tax reform or making cuts to subsidies for food or energy.

Though the policies often intend to prevent countries from defaulting, keeping up with high interest loans in Africa means less money for critical needs, youth and infrastructure, said Nadia Fettah, Morocco's economy and finance minister. "When we're having the conversation about how much financial resources are available, that we need to choose between food security and debt or climate finance and economic outside investment — we need both," she said. "Emerging countries need all of this, and the future of growth in the world needs growth in Africa." From Egypt to Ghana, those choices have sparked opposition in recent months. And for years, they have formed the basis of criticisms that the institutions sideline the neediest nations from their governance and decision-making process. □

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Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
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Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
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Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta brings colorful displays to the New Mexico sky

Gabe Stern

Associated Press

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta has brought colorful displays to the New Mexico sky in an international event that attracts hundreds of thousands of spectators every year.

The event started Saturday with a drone light show before sunrise followed by a mass ascension of hot air balloons. Over nine days, local residents and visitors will be treated to a cavalcade of colorful and special-shaped balloons.

The annual gathering has become a major economic driver for the state's biggest city. The Rio Grande and nearby mountains provide spectacular backdrops to the fiesta that began with a few pilots launching 13 balloons from an open lot near a shopping center on what was the edge of Albuquerque in 1972.

The fiesta has morphed into one of the most photographed events in the world, now based at Balloon Fiesta Park. Balloon designs have featured cartoon animals, Star Wars characters and even the polar bear found on Klondike bars.

"But they're still all about the basics," said fiesta director Sam Parks, who flies



Nearly 500 balloons begin to take off during the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023 in Albuquerque, N.M.

(AP Photo/Roberto E. Rosales)

a globe-style balloon modeled after one flown by the fiesta's late founder Sid Cutter. "You add heat to a big bag of air and you go up."

Nearly 830,000 people from around the world attended last year's event. Scheduled nighttime events include fireworks and balloon glows, in which hot air

balloons are inflated and lit up from the ground.

One of the biggest events in aviation, the Gordon Bennett competition, also launched Saturday night. Pilots navigate hydrogen-filled balloons high in the air and the ones who fly the farthest win.

The balloons are different than those featured

throughout the Albuquerque fiesta that stay local.

Some 550 balloon pilots are registered to fly during the fiesta, seeking to take advantage of a phenomenon known as the "Albuquerque box," when the wind blows in opposite directions at different elevations, allowing skillful pilots to bring a balloon back to a spot

near the point of takeoff.

Visitors to the event also can pay to go aloft for views of the Sandia Mountains to the west and New Mexico's capital, Santa Fe, farther north.

"It has become part of the culture," Parks said. "The thread, if you will, of those here."

Elizabeth Wright-Smith, who is flying the Smokey Bear balloon this week, said she reunites with friends from all over the country at the fiesta that she would not see otherwise. As of early Saturday afternoon, she had already run into 30 people she had met from various balloon races, safety seminars and other events across the country.

"It's a big reunion," she said.

Her favorite part of the fiesta is watching and interacting with the thousands of spectators who flock to Balloon Fiesta Park, which grow smaller as she ascends in her balloon. The sky was clear Saturday — a contrast from last year, when off-and-on rain left parts of the fiesta soggy.

"Pictures don't do it justice, videos don't do it justice," Wright-Smith said. "You've got to be standing there watching them to really get it." □



Misty Copeland attends the American Ballet Theatre June gala and premiere of "Like Water for Chocolate" in New York on June 22, 2023.

(Photo by Charles Sykes/Invision/AP, File)

Misty Copeland's dedication to inclusion spans many projects — and her push for new dance emojis

By brooke Lefferts

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Misty Copeland has her hands (and feet!) in many different projects simultaneously, but all are motivated by her passion to use her platform to promote diversity in all the spaces she inhabits. The first Black woman to be promoted to principal dancer for the American Ballet Theatre in 2015, Copeland says she never

takes that opportunity for granted. Beyond performing, she says she feels a responsibility to show the importance of representation, and work on projects that are an extension of who she is as a dancer. Her influence has transcended the stage to author, head of her own production company and charitable foundation, and now co-founder and designer of a new athletic

wear brand, Greatness Wins, that focuses on clothing for women of all ages and body types.

Copeland also likes to try new things that scare her so she's taken on the role of interviewer on a new show called "PBS Arts Talk," where she recently interviewed painter Nathaniel Mary Quinn and dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp. □

Jalen Hurts finally flashes a breakout run game. The 5-0 Eagles need more of it to stay undefeated

By Dan Gelston
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jalen Hurts had been more grounded this season than he was a year ago, when he was an explosive runner in a breakout season that saw him lead the Eagles to the Super Bowl.

The big plays will come, he insisted.

Hurts finally broke free Sunday in a win against the Rams.

The Eagles led by three in the third quarter when they faced third-and-7 in their own territory. Maybe the Rams would have one more scoring drive in them should they stop the Eagles and force a punt.

Hurts instead dropped back, faced pressure and took off toward his right sideline and beat two defenders before bruising his way for a few more yards. Hurts got 17 yards on the run that kept the drive alive and ended with a field



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts scrambles with the ball during the first half of an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, in Inglewood, Calif.

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

goal.

That was the Hurts the Eagles had waited for this season.

"There's gonna be games he has to get freaky out

there," coach Nick Sirianni said. "I thought he did a really nice job of making some plays that only he can make."

Hurts passed for 303 yards

and a touchdown and rushed for 72 yards and another score in the 23-14 win over the Rams. His 15 rushing attempts were a season best, as were the yards.

Hurts easily had his best all-around game of the season, one reason the Eagles are 5-0 for only the fourth time in franchise history. The last time? Yes, last season behind Hurts, who was the NFL MVP runner-up. (Philly also started 5-0 in 1981 and 2004.)

He was clutch on third down. Hurts had eight carries for 45 yards on third down and was 6 of 8 for 67 yards with one passing TD on third down.

"This is a results-based business," Hurts said. "You're judged on what you do and the outcome of what you do. Nobody really cares about how you do it. They want to see if you win or you lose; if it works or if it doesn't."

Most parts of the game are working for the Eagles and in a "results-based business," only San Francisco (5-0) can match them as the best in the NFL. □

Saints putting dominant win in perspective after their recent skid

By Brett Martel
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Pleased as Saints quarterback Derek Carr was about the best all-around game by far that New Orleans has played in his first season with the club, he wasn't about to lose sight of the big picture.

The 34-0 triumph in New England came only one week after a bitterly disappointing loss at home in a division matchup game to Tampa Bay, and it came against a Patriots team that has been reeling lately.

"I've been in tough times, and when you do go out and have a good day, it's always a relief," Carr said after Sunday's game. "It's always, like, 'All right, let's at least get seven days answering nice questions about some things.'"

Time will tell if New Orleans' dominant Week 5 performance is a turning point or just a brief respite. But it's something to build on.



New Orleans Saints running back Alvin Kamara (41) runs under pressure from New England Patriots safety Kyle Dugger, left, and defensive end Lawrence Guy Sr., right, during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, in Foxborough, Mass.

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

"It's probably as complete a game as we've played around here in a while," coach Dennis Allen said. "Our guys knew what we needed to do. I think they

understood that the previous performance wasn't good enough."

After throwing for just two touchdowns in his first four games, Carr doubled his

season total with scoring strikes to receiver Chris Olave and tight end Foster Moreau.

Alvin Kamara had 97 yards from scrimmage and

rushed for his first TD this season. And the Saints possessed the ball for nearly two-thirds of the game (39:34) and did not turn the ball over.

It was a dramatic improvement for an offense whose recent struggles had brought a lot of scrutiny on coordinator Pete Carmichael.

"If you're having struggles in an area, there's very few times you can point in one individual direction and say, 'That's the issue,'" Allen said. "So, the challenge this week was for everybody — players and coaches — to show up."

Defensively, Tyrann Mathieu's pick-6 against Patriots QB Mac Jones was the first of two interceptions by the defense to go with a fumble recovery.

Special teams performed well, too, giving up only 1 yard on punt returns, hitting both field-goal attempts and not allowing any significant kickoff returns. □

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Matt Fitzpatrick wins weather-hit Dunhill Links Championship for family triumph at the home of golf

Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)

— Matt Fitzpatrick posed for photos with his mother as they crossed the Swilcan Bridge, then made birdie from 10 feet on the storied 18th hole at St. Andrews. Talk about a perfect way to close out a first European tour title in two years. Fitzpatrick shot 6-under 66 on the Old Course to win the weather-affected Dunhill Links Championship by three strokes on Monday. The 2022 U.S. Open champion was 19-under par overall for an event that was reduced to 54 holes after heavy rain wiped out play on Saturday and Sunday. Play was only possible on Monday after remarkable efforts from the greenkeepers at the three storied Scottish courses hosting the pro-am event



England's Matt Fitzpatrick celebrates with the trophy after winning the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship at St Andrews, Scotland, Monday Oct. 9, 2023.

(Steve Welsh/PA via AP)

— St. Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns — to make them playable. Large parts of Carnoustie, in particular, were unrecognizable on Sunday and there were still huge swathes of water on some fairways. Ryan Fox, a recent winner

at the BMW PGA Championship, shot 65 on the Old Course and was tied for second place with Matthew Southgate (66 at St. Andrews) and Marcus Armitage (66 at Carnoustie). Fitzpatrick, who won the RBC Heritage on the PGA

Tour in April, hadn't won on the European tour since the Andalucia Masters in October 2021. This latest title comes a week after he was part of Europe's Ryder Cup-winning team in Rome, where he claimed his first point in golf's biggest show after five straight losses across away matches in 2016 and 2021.

He played with his mother, Susan, in the pro-am at the Dunhill Links — and they won, too.

"It's funny really, it was kind of a freewheeling week — playing with mum and just trying to enjoy it the best I can and see what happened," Fitzpatrick said.

The 29-year-old Englishman shot 67 at Carnoustie on Thursday and 64 at Kingsbarns on Friday.

"I couldn't ask for a better week," Fitzpatrick said.

"Aside from the weather, it really was a perfect week.

"Even with all my wins, aside from a major, you forget about them in the future, and you'll always remember the one that you won with your mum."

A total of 39 players either withdrew or retired ahead of the third and final round. After Fitzpatrick finished his round, only the No. 381-ranked Armitage could realistically threaten the lead and he made three birdies in a four-hole stretch to close within two shots with three holes left at Carnoustie. However, Armitage finished par-bogey-par to fall back into a tie for second. Sebastian Soderberg of Sweden made 10 birdies in a bogey-free 62 at Kingsbarns and was alone in fifth place on 15 under overall. □

France captain Dupont cleared to resume full contact training at Rugby World Cup

Associated Press

PARIS (AP)

— France captain Antoine Dupont was a step closer to playing again at the Rugby World Cup after being cleared to resume full training on Monday.

The surgeon who repaired Dupont's broken right cheekbone gave him a green light after a final checkup on Monday. Dupont was due to begin full-contact training in the afternoon.

It was up to the coaches now whether the star scrumhalf was fit to lead France or come off the bench against defending champion South Africa in the quarterfinals on Sunday at Stade de France.

"The key factor is appre-

hension," team medical director Bruno Boussagol said on Monday.

"We need to remain close to Antoine and help him across the board for him to be in the best position to apply for selection."

Dupont was injured by a head-on-head tackle on Sept. 21 against Namibia. He had surgery the next day and rejoined the team 10 days later. He has trained solo under medical supervision, and done contact work with tackle pads with fitness staff.

His absence from France's final pool game against Italy last Friday wasn't a problem, as Les Tricolores won 60-7. But the Springboks are a hurdle as big as they come.



France's Antoine Dupont runs in to score his side's seventh try during the Rugby World Cup Pool A match between France and Namibia at the Stade de Marseille in Marseille, France, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023.

(AP Photo/Daniel Cole)

Dupont is considering wearing a protective scrum cap.

"We're working on it," Boussagol said. "He has received and has tested this

kind of protection equipment.

There are two key points: His vision and his hearing can't be affected. There's a lot of noise in the stadium and Antoine communicates a lot. These two parameters need to be evaluated and tested during training."

First-choice hooker Julien Marchand's race to be fit has failed. He hurt his hamstring in the opening win against New Zealand a month ago.

"He needs to pass quite a lot of tests by the end of the week," Boussagol said. "He's still with us because he has a genuine chance to be back on the pitch. We hope this is going to happen later next week." □